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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR A/S KELLY, A/S PRM DEWEY, IO A/S HOLMES, EAP/K
DONG AND BELLER, AND IO/EDA WINNICK
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS AND RTILSWORTH
USAID FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, AA/DCHA WINTER, AA/ANE
CHAMBERLAIN, D/DCHA/FFP LLANDIS AND JBRAUSE
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KN](#) [KS](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: Current readout on 2003 funding for WFP's North
Korea Emergency operation (EMOP)

REF: (A) 02 ROME 5830

Summary

1. As of mid-October, WFP had resourced 288,901 metric tons of food assistance (valued at USD 86.6 million) against its calendar year 2003 appeal for 513,096 metric tons. Principal donors include: Republic of Korea, 100,000 mts; Russian Federation, 40,463 mts; European Commission-ECHO, 46,285 mts; United States, 40,170 mts; Italy, 20,273 mts; and Germany, 14,725 mts. No progress is reported by WFP in its negotiations with DPR Korea on creation of greater humanitarian "space" for its operations. On greater access and unrestricted monitoring, WFP Executive Director Jim Morris commented to CNN on October 3: "This is not about politics, but this is about accountability. It is about North Korea adhering to the same standards that every one of the 80 countries we work in adhere to." End summary.

Background

2. On December 2, 2002, World Food Program (ref A) launched its 2003 emergency operation (EMOP) for North Korea - one year (January - December 2003), valued at USD 201.08 million (513,096 mts), to assist 6.4 million people - mainly women and children. As of mid-October, 2003, WFP had resourced 288,901 metric tons of food assistance (valued at USD 86.6 million) against its calendar year 2003 appeal (56.3 percent). Principal donors this year include: Republic of Korea, 100,000 mts; Russian Federation, 40,463 mts; European Commission-ECHO, 46,285 mts; United States, 40,170 mts; Italy, 20,273 mts; and Germany, 14,725 mts.

3. Since 1995 WFP has delivered well over 3 million metric tons of food aid, mostly cereals, to the DPRK, with the United States by far the main donor.

FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to the
DPR Korea - September 23 - October 4, 2003

4. In its Special Report issued on October 30 (and available on the FAO website) related to a review of DPR Korea's 2003 crop harvest and estimated cereal import requirements for 2004, the FAO/WFP report recommended 484,000 tons of commodities, including 400,000 tons of cereals, to be sought as food aid for 2004 for the most vulnerable North Koreans. Three-quarters of the total would be earmarked for children in nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools, orphanages and hospitals, pregnant and nursing women and elderly people. Note. These numbers will become more definite when the UN launches its Consolidated 2004 (CAP) Appeal for DPR Korea on November 19.

WFP access and monitoring

5. As amply documented by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) and elsewhere, the DPR Korea authorities, from the very beginning of humanitarian assistance in 1995, have resisted random site visits and uncontrolled interaction with aid recipients, a policy which WFP (and its non-governmental organization (NGO) partners found unacceptable but have not been able to reverse. Moreover, the DPR Korea authorities keep almost a quarter of North Korea counties (i.e., 43 counties out of 206) off-limits to international food assistance monitoring; hence

there are no deliveries of humanitarian assistance to these areas.ION IN ROME

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16. In responding to the GAO Report (October 1999) entitled: "Foreign Assistance - North Korea Restricts Food Aid Monitoring," then-WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini (who visited DRR Korea on three occasions) wrote: "there is no doubt that the limits that have been placed on our food aid monitoring have made WFP operations difficult. The limitations imposed by the DPRK Government - on access to visas by all nationalities, random visits, and further nutritional monitoring - have been the subject of literally hundreds of meetings and intense negotiations with DPRK authorities. In 1998, after warning the government of the DPRK that we would not allow food deliveries in counties where they could not be monitored, WFP reduced operations by USD 50 million. We continue to urge the North Korean authorities to allow improvements."

17. Present WFP Executive Director Jim Morris (who toured North Korea in October 2002) commented, in a CNN interview in Tokyo on October 3, 2003, on increased access and unrestricted monitoring: "This is not about politics, but this is about accountability. It is about North Korea adhering to the same standards that every one of the 80 countries we work in adhere to."

Comment

18. Morris has, in US Mission's view, vigorously presented the humanitarian community's concern in "clear and plain English." But to get the message across, he will need equally vigorous allies who will put increased access and unrestricted monitoring at the center of our collective diplomatic and strategic agenda as we consider response to the 2004 UN Consolidated Appeal for North Korea. Hall

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